

TROOP A  
1ST SQUADRON 9TH CAVALRY  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO San Francisco, California 96490

AVDARS-A

1 January 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - December 1969

Commanding Officer  
1st Sqdn 9th Cav  
1st Air Cav Div  
ATTN: S-3  
APO SF 96490

1. Significant Organization and Unit Activities:

a. Principle Operations:

On 5 December 1969, at 1005 hours, at grid coordinates XT 438809, Apache 12 received heavy AK47 and .30 caliber fire. The aircraft took seven (7) hits and had to make a precautionary landing at FSB Jamie. There were negative injuries. Apache 25 engaged the area with organics and Red Leg resulting in two (2) NVA KBH. At 1015 hours, Apache 14 received .30 caliber fire at grid coordinates XT 430690 with negative hits or injuries. Apache 27 engaged the area with organics and Red leg resulting in two (2) NVA KBH and one (1) NVA KBRL. At 1230 hours, at grid coordinates XT 430690, the Blues were inserted into the area of the GTAF. At 1630 hours the Blues made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in three (3) U.S. WIA, and an unknown number of enemy killed. Contact lasted for approximately two (2) hours. There was a total of eleven (11) NVA KBH, one (1) NVA KBRL, four (4) NVA Killed by Blue Max, and Five (5) NVA KIA by the Blues. At 1730 hours Apache 14 received heavy AK47 and .30 caliber fire while covering a medevac in the area of contact. He received numerous hits and had to make a precautionary landing at grid coordinates XT 431690. The QRF and RRF were inserted on the downed aircraft to secure it and provide relief for the Blues. At approximately 1800 hours the aircraft was slung out and the Blues broke contact. The blues remained with the RRF overnight. The RRF also accounted for eight (8) NVA KIA during the night.

On 6 December 1969, at 1135 hours, at grid coordinates XT 515723, Apache 19 received moderate AK47 fire. The aircraft took three (3) hits in the skid, there were negative injuries. Apache 28 engaged the area resulting in four (4) NVA KBH. Individuals were wearing green clothing.

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On 8 December 1969, at 1820 hours, at grid coordinates XT 263845, Apache 19 came across a very large bunker complex. The area showed moderate to heavy recent use. In this area he observed approximately twenty (20) individuals. He engaged the area with organics, resulting in ten (10) NVA KEH. The enemy returned fire with a heavy volume of small arms fire and .51 caliber. Apache 19 received constant fire from the grid listed above to two hundred (200) meters south. There were negative hits or injuries. Artillery was adjusted into the area, but due to darkness there was negative BDA.

On 13 December 1969, at 1400 hours, at grid coordinates XT 400776, Apache 17 received light to moderate AK47 fire. The aircraft took one (1) hit in the right side panel and the pilot took one (1) hit in the right leg. He landed the aircraft safely at FSB Vickie. Apache 25 engaged the area with organics, Red Leg, and requested an air strike.

On 20 December 1969, at 1340 hours, at grid coordinates XT 213903, the Blues were inserted on a suspected rice cache. They found and destroyed thirty (30) two hundred (200) pound bags of rice. They made light contact while operating in the area, and several individuals were sighted around the Blues by the low bird. The Blues engaged several suspected enemy locations with negative assessment. The Blues were extracted around 1729 hours, and artillery was called into the area and air strikes were requested.

On 21 December 1969, at 0830 hours, at grid coordinates XT 158847, Apache 13 received a heavy volume of AK47 fire for an estimated 1,000 meter radius. The aircraft crashed and exploded on contact at grid coordinates XT 187845. All three people on board were killed and the aircraft was totally destroyed. The Blues were repelled into the crash site and the three (3) bodies were extracted at approximately 1055 hours. The area was engaged with organics, five (5) air strikes, and artillery resulting in six (6) NVA KEH, four (4) NVA KBA, and three (3) NVA KBRL.

On 26 December 1969, at 1500 hours, at grid coordinates XT 238808, Apache 14 received heavy AK47 fire and .30 caliber fire. The aircraft took three (3) hits; one (1) in the rotor blades, one (1) in the floor of the aircraft, and one (1) in the green house. The pilot took one (1) AK47 round thru the left leg, and slight frag wounds in the hands. He made it safely back to the FSB Carolyn. Apache 25 engaged the area with organics, artillery, and an air strike resulting in one (1) KBA.

On 29 December 1969, at 1715 hours, at grid coordinates XT 166834, Apache 17 received light to moderate AK47 fire which damaged his tail rotor. He lost control of the aircraft and crashed at the coordinates listed above. The Blues were inserted at the crash site at 1722 hours, and the crew of the downed aircraft was extracted at 1805 hours. The Blues stripped the remains of the aircraft and destroyed what was left. The Blues were extracted at 1840 hours. The pilot of the downed aircraft suffered broken bones and abrasions. The gunner suffered a possible broken back, broken leg and possible broken jaw. The observer suffered only minor injuries.

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## b. Base Defense:

(1) There was one incoming round during the month of December 1969, in the "A" Troop area. The round landed at the base of the burm and resulted in negative injuries and negative damage.

(2) "A" Troop supplied eighteen (18) men per night for guard and a Sergeant of the Guard on a regularly scheduled roster for the month of December 1969.

(3) During the month "A" Troop acquired responsibility for another bunker (37) in the green line area. "A" Troop also acquired responsibility over section A of zone 4 which includes bunkers 36, 38, 39, 40, 41. The communications requirement was also completed during the month.

## c. Base Area Improvements:

(1) Work on the mess hall continues. The walls have been panelled and work on the ceiling has been started.

(2) Several bunkers (personnel) have been rebuilt or newly built.

(3) Major dust problem areas have been pene-primed.

(4) Several areas have been filled with dirt and leveled.

## d. Training and Organization:

(1) On 3 December 1969, a Command Information class was held. There was one hundred (100) percent attendance.

(2) On 5 December 1969, a class and an exercise was conducted on zeroing of M-16's of individual weapons. There was twenty-eight (28) percent attendance.

(3) On 11 December 1969, a class was conducted on Lessons Learned. There was one hundred (100) percent attendance.

(4) On 12 December 1969, a Command Information class was held. There was one hundred (100) percent attendance.

(5) On 14 December 1969, a class was conducted on Safety and an exercise on Fire Control Procedures. There was eighty-six (86) percent attendance.

(6) On 21 December 1969, a Command Information class was held. There was one hundred (100) percent attendance.

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(7) On 22 December 1969, a class and an exercise was conducted on the Jungle Penetrator. There was twenty-three (23) percent attendance.

(8) On 28 December 1969, a class on Rules of Engagement was conducted. There was thirty-five (35) percent attendance.

e. Administration and Logistics:

1. Troop Strength:

Authorized			Assigned			Present for Duty		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
18	30	110	18	32	129	18	31	121

2. Organization for Combat:

CO	MAJ Hardin (1 Dec 69 - 26 Dec 69)
	CPT Funk (26 Dec 69 - 31 Dec 69)
XO	CPT Funk (1 Dec 69 - 26 Dec 69)
Opns Off	CPT Anderson
Wpns Plt Ldr	CPT Eldridge
Scout Plt Ldr	CPT Dagnon
Lift Plt Ldr	CPT Ball
Maint Plt Off	CPT Stiver
Rifle Plt Ldr	1LT Qualley (1 Dec 69 - 5 Dec 69)
	2LT Hugel (5 Dec 69 - 31 Dec 69)

3. Awards and Decorations:

0 Bronze Stars "V"	1 Army Commendation Medals with "V"
0 Bronze Stars	2 Distinguished Flying Cross
2 Air Medals "V"	8 Oakleaf Clusters to the Air Medal
6 Air Medals	0 Army Commendation Medals
3 Purple Hearts	

4.

4. Losses:

Programmed			Unprogrammed		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
2	1	11	2	4	5

5. Promotions:

0 1LT to CPT	0 SSG to SFC
1 WO1 to CW2	0 SP4 to SP5
4 SP4 to SGT	0 E-5 to E-6
9 PFC to SP4	

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6. R&R

1 In-country  
12 Out-of-country

7. Replacements:

OFF WO EM  
2 0 6

8. Logistics:

a. Class I - Class A - 20,940  
- Class B - 925  
Class C - 0

b. Class II - Trousers (combat) - 70  
Jackets (combat) - 70  
Boots (combat) - 20  
Socks - 100  
Shorts - 60  
T-shirts - 60

c. Class III - JP-4 - 106,453  
MOGAS - 1,052  
DIESEL - 2,110

d. Class IV - None

e. Class V - 5.56 - 10,368 .45 - 200  
7.62 - 130,050 WP Gren - 0  
40mm link - 9,195 Incen Gren - 550  
40mm M-79 - 324 60MM - 0  
2.75 - 3,151 81MM - 0  
.38 - 50 90MM - 0  
Smoke - 1,668 106MM - 0

2. Losses:

a. Enemy Month  
NVA KBH 126  
NVA KBA 13  
NVA KBRL 19  
NVA KIA 5  
Detainees 0  
NVA Captured 0  
VD Captured 0

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Indiv Wpns Dest	12
C/S Wpns Captured	0
Ammo	0
Packs	0
Rice	5 tons
Salt	0
Documents	6 inches

b. Friendly Month

US KIA	4
US WIA	7
US MIA	0
A/C Firing	60
A/C Hit	11
A/C Hit (No Fly)	9
A/C Fly	2
A/C Dest (Combat)	2
A/C Dest (No Combat)	0
C/S Wpns Lost	0
Indiv Wpns Lost	12
Vehicles Dest (Combat)	0
Vehicles Dest (No Combat)	0
Vehicles turned in	0

3. Commanders Comments:

(1) The volume of enemy movement decreased sharply in the 1st Brigade A.O. during late December.

(2) There continues to be a problem in procuring armament parts. Drive cables for the XM-28 have been ordered and re-ordered with little success.

(3) Emphasis has been placed upon the Rules of Engagement, relations with civilians and the need for contacting units in the field for clearance to fire weapons.

(4) The biggest problem facing the troop is in the area of personnel. An especially critical shortage lies in the infantry and scout platoons. Several experienced officers and warrant officers depart in February.

4. Recommendations:

(1) That a new maintenance officer be assigned to the troop so that he may understudy the present maintenance officer who leaves in February.

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(2) That some arrangements be made to train a [redacted] [redacted]  
The present IP leaves in February.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Ronald A. Whitfield*

RONALD A. WHITFIELD

1LT. AR

Asst Operations Officer

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